SGT. H.L. BANK, 20416637
CO. M, 167TH INF, APO 31,
C/O P.M., S.F., CALIF.

U.S. 1 B.P.O. 8 AM 1944

U.S. 6¢ VIA AIR MAIL

AIRMAIL

MR. & MRS. SAM BANK
ARMY STORE,
TUSCALOOSA, ALA.
U.S.A.

PASSED BY
30316
EXAMINER

N.E.F.
24 DEC 44

DEAREST MOTHER + DADDY:

WELL, IT IS RAINING AS USUAL TO-DAY, AND THIS IS THE LAST SHOPPING DAY BEFORE XMAS. I GUESS YOU'RE BUSY AS THE DEVIL TO-DAY! RIGHT? HOW WELL DO I REMEMBER XMAS EVES OF YEARS GONE BY WHEN WE WOULD WORK ALL DAY TILL 11 P.M., THEN ALL WOULD COME HOME, NOT WAITING UNTIL XMAS DAY, BUT WE WOULD GIVE EACH OTHER THEIR PRESENTS THEN. THEN WE WOULD SIT AROUND AND SHOOT BULL, BUT NOT FOR LONG, BECAUSE WE WERE TO TIRED FROM THE DAY'S WORK. IN 1940 I WAS IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA, AT ~~HOME~~ SAME PLACE 1941, AT HOME IN 1942, AND IN N.Y. IN 1943. RIGHT? AND LOOK WHERE I AM IN 1944! I SURELY HOPE I'LL BE HOME FOR XMAS 1945, AND HONESTLY BELIEVE I WILL! LET'S HOPE ANYWAY! RIGHT?

YESTERDAY I RECEIVED THE 3 MONEY ORDERS, AND THANKS A MILLION! I WILL ASSURE YOU THAT IT WILL BE USED AS FURLOUGH MONEY ONLY, AND NOT FOR POKER, AS YOU SURMISED. WHEN I PLAY POKER, AND I VERY SELDOM DO, I TAKE ONLY A FEW GUILDERS, AND I LOSE THAT, I QUIT. I WILL FURTHER ASSURE YOU THAT MY WINNINGS FAR SURPASS MY LOSINGS. AS YOU KNOW I ONLY DRAW $13.30 A MONTH. I SPOKE TO THE CAPTAIN ABOUT THE FURLOUGH, AND MAYBE I'LL GET TO GO NEXT, THEN MAYBE IT WILL BE 6 MONTHS OR A YEAR BEFORE. ONLY 1 CAN GO AT A TIME, SO YOU CAN READILY UNDERSTAND MY POSITION. I WANT THE MONEY WITH ME SO IF

I AM OFFERED THE FURLOUGH, I WON'T HAVE TO TURN IT DOWN BECAUSE OF FUNDS.. RIGHT? WE GET ONLY 15 DAYS IN AUSTRALIA, BUT THE TRIP TAKES ABOUT 45 DAYS, AS WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO TRAVEL, BY BOAT AND PLANE. AS FOR COMING HOME, THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. THE CIVILIAN AIR-LINES DON'T RUN OVER HERE NOW, AND YOU KNOW THAT. BUT I SURE WOULD LIKE TO COME HOME.

TO-DAY I RECEIVED A CARD AND NOTE FROM GENA ROSENFELD, AND 2 PACKAGES FROM YOU. IT WAS THE SARDINES FROM CHICAGO, AND A CAN OF CHERRIES, APRICOTS, PECANS, AND RAISENS. IT SURE IS GOOD. WRITE AUNT ANNA IN CHICAGO TO SEND ME ANOTHER BOX OF SARDINES.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. MAR 16 1943 PARCEL POST

I ALSO GOT A BOX FROM THE RED CROSS WHICH INCLUDED A BOOK, CANDY, PICTURE CONTAINER, ADDRESS BOOK, TO-BACCO POUCH, AND POST-CARDS, IT WAS NICE.

I PROCURED ME A NEW PIPE LAST WEEK FOR A COUPLE OF BRACELETS.

DID YOU EVER SEND THE MONEY FOR MY CAMERA? YOU NEVER MENTIONED IT!

I'LL WRITE GENA TO-DAY. SHE SAID SHE SENT ME A BOX, BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT YET. GUESS I WILL SOON!

BE GOOD AND WRITE SOON!

LOVE,
HAROLD

P.S. I'M DEPOSITING THE MONEY IN SOLDIER'S DEPOSITS, LIKE A BANK, WHICH PAYS 4%, AND CAN ONLY BE DRAWN OUT IN AN EMERGENCY OR FOR FURLOUGH!

HB

-OVER-

P.S.S. I JUST HAD XMAS DINNER TO-DAY INSTEAD OF TO-MORROW, AND IT WAS THE BEST MEAL I HAVE SINCE WE LEFT THE STATES. WE HAD TURKEY, DRESSING, GRAVY, PEAS, SWEET POTATOES, OLIVES, PEACHES, LAYER CAKE, ICED-TEA WITH ICE, AND BREAD + BUTTER! BOY, IT WAS GOOD!

HB